

KWEISI MFUME
7TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 2021

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Honorable Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Review of Gwen Levi's Confinement

Dear Attorney General Garland:

This letter conveys my strong concern regarding the case of Gwen Levi, a 76-year-old Baltimore woman who is in a District of Columbia jail awaiting transfer to a Federal Bureau of Prisons ("BOP") facility. Additionally, this letter asks for clarification on the basis for her continued detention.

After serving 16 years in federal facilities on a 24 years sentence, Ms. Levi was transitioned to home confinement in June 2020. She was one of approximately 4,500 federal prisoners similarly transitioned last year under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act") in order to curb the spread of COVID-19 in federal prisons and to protect vulnerable, including elderly, prisoners from contracting COVID-19. During her home confinement, Ms. Levi productively engaged in volunteer work with prisoner advocacy organizations and was meaningfully strengthening her relationships with her 94-year-old mother, her sons, and grandsons.

A recent BOP incident report states Ms. Levi was arrested on June 12, 2021 for being "out of contact for a few hours with the officials supervising her." This insinuates Ms. Levi was doing something nefarious during the time she could not be reach by her supervisors.

Based on discussions with advocates and representatives of Ms. Levi as well as published reports, this could not be further from the truth.

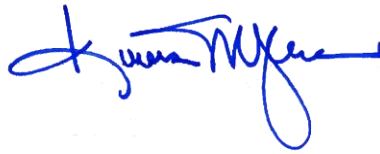
Ms. Levi was out of contact for 2 hours, 26 minutes and was in fact attending a computer word-processing class in Baltimore's Inner Harbor to gain skills that could lead to full employment during the time at issue. Emblematic of her respect for the institutions of government and the terms of her "debt to society," Ms. Levi voluntarily turned herself in to

clarify the misunderstanding related to her monitoring system and her time at the computer class based on all information available to me.

In the attached letter to you dated May 27, 2021, led by my colleague Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12), you are encouraged to undo the prior administration's retaliatory approach to transitioning citizens. By way of this letter, I join in encouraging you to do the same.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter, and I look forward to working with you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kweisi Mfume", with a stylized, flowing script.

Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress